



Your business
is our business.

REDACTED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

7852 Walker Drive, Suite 200
Greenbelt, Maryland 20770
phone: 301-459-7590, fax: 301-577-5575
internet: www.jsitel.com, e-mail: jsi@jsitel.com

June 27, 2016

Via Hand Delivery

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

**Re: WC Docket No. 14-58
2016 ETC Annual Report of Hill Country Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
Study Area Code 442086**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On behalf of Hill Country Telephone Cooperative, Inc. ("Company"), JSI files the attached confidential version of the FCC Form 481 ETC annual reporting information pursuant to sections 54.313 and 54.422 of the Commission's rules.¹ Company seeks confidential treatment under Protective Order for section 54.313(f)(2) financial information.² The redacted version is also being filed this date via the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System. In addition, attached is a letter requesting confidential treatment under Sections 0.457 and 0.459 of the Company's Progress Report on its Five-Year Service Quality Improvement Plan and of outage reporting as required by Section 54.313.³

Please direct any questions regarding the filing to the undersigned.

Sincerely,

John Kuykendall
JSI Vice President
301-459-7590
jkuykendall@jsitel.com

¹ 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.313, 54.422.

² *Connect America Fund et al.*, WC Docket Nos. 10-90 and 14-58, Protective Order, DA 16-296 rel. March 22, 2016 (Protective Order). 47 C.F.R. § 54.313(f)(2).

³ 47 C.F.R. §§ 0.457, 0.459, 54.313.



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Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

**Re: WC Docket No. 14-58
2016 ETC Annual Report of Hill Country Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
Study Area Code 442086
Request for Confidentiality**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

John Staurulakis, Inc. ("JSI"), on behalf of its client Hill Country Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (the "Company") hereby requests, pursuant to Sections 0.457 and 0.459 of the Commission's rules,¹ withholding from public inspection certain information contained in attachments to the above referenced reporting requirement. The Company provides the following in support of its request, numbered consistent with the subparagraphs of Section 0.459(b).²

1. The information for which the Company is seeking confidential treatment are attachments to the Company's annual reporting information pursuant to Sections 54.313 and 54.422 of the Commission's rules ("Report").³
2. Rate-of-Return Eligible Telecommunications Carriers ("ETCs") must file with the Commission a Five-Year Service Quality Improvement Plan ("Five-Year Plan") Progress Report⁴ and must also report outages, both of which are contained in attachments to the 2016 Report.
3. The information contained in attachments for which the Company seeks the withholding from public inspection is the entirety of data pertaining to the Company's Five-Year Plan provided at FCC Form 481 Line 112 attachment. The Company also seeks withholding from public inspection data pertaining to the Company's outages provided at FCC Form 481 Line 200 attachment, Service Outage Reporting. Information of this nature is confidential commercial information routinely withheld from public inspection.

¹ 47 C.F.R. §§ 0.457, 0.459.

² 47 C.F.R. § 0.459(b)(1) through (9).

³ 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.313, 54.422.

⁴ See *In the Matter of Connect America Fund*, WC Docket No. 10-90, Order DA 14-591 (rel. May 1, 2014).

4. With respect to identifying the degree to which the Five-Year Plan concerns a service that is subject to competition, the Line 112 attachment contains information of a financial and competitive nature regarding the provision of telecommunications services. The Line 112 attachment includes competitively sensitive information related to proposed improvements or upgrades and maintenance the Company's network.

In its *March 5, 2013 Order*, the FCC. The FCC specified that for rate-of-return carriers, the five-year plans "should describe the carrier's network improvement plan, which should provide greater visibility into current plans to extend broadband service to unserved locations in rate-of-return service territories."⁵ Accordingly, because the Company is a rate-of-return carrier, it must file a five-year service improvement plan which contains proprietary, competitively sensitive information related to the Company's existing network including the specific locations of customers as well as describe proposed improvements or upgrades and maintenance of its network throughout its service area. Specifically, this information sets forth services provided by the Company over its existing network including specific locations of customers as well as planned network improvement and maintenance for the years 2015 through 2019 including project start and completion dates, population that will be impacted by the improvements and upgrades at the wire center level and projected capital costs associated with the improvements and upgrades and operating costs associated with maintaining the network including depreciation for investments that have already been made. As such, this information contains competitively sensitive information related to the Company's existing network as well as detailed plans at the wire center level for network upgrades and maintenance projected for the years 2015 through 2019.

With respect to identifying the degree to which the outage data contained in the Line 200 attachment concerns a service that is subject to competition, the information pertains to the network and operations of a telecommunications company that has competitors that could benefit if they were able to have access to this information.

5. With respect to identifying possible exposure to competitive harm, the information contained in the subject attachments is information that is not customarily released to the public. The Five-Year Plan information is proprietary to the Company, is unique to the Company's serving territory and is only known to the Company and its authorized agents. If the Information is not protected, it would have economic value to potential competitors who would be able to target their marketing to specific customers. In a competitive telecommunications marketplace, this type of information is highly sensitive. If publicly disclosed, it would enable competitors to craft business plans that capitalize on their knowledge of the locations of the Company's customers which would place the Company at a competitive disadvantage.
6. With respect to steps the Company has taken to ensure against unauthorized disclosure of the information contained in the attachments, the Company is filing

⁵ See *Connect America Fund et al.*, WC Docket 10-90 *et al.*, Order, DA 13-332 (rel. Mar. 5, 2013) ("*March 5, 2013 Order*") at para 9 citing Section 54.202(a) (1) (ii).

Request for Confidentiality

Page 3

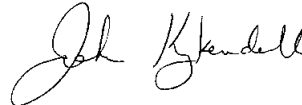
the Five-Year Plan and outage attachments under seal. The Company uses the information contained in the Five-Year Plan to ensure that its customers continue to receive state-of-the-art high quality telecommunications and broadband services that the Company has been providing to them for many years as well as to satisfy mandatory reporting requirements and does not share the information for which protection is sought. The Company protects the secrecy of this information with a security protocol that ensures the information is not inadvertently disclosed or disseminated. Only directors, managers and employees with a direct need to know are authorized to access the information.

7. Any previous versions of this information are not publicly available.
8. Because the information is not routinely available, a need exists for maintaining the confidentiality of this information permanently.
9. The Commission has previously concluded that there is a presumptive likelihood of substantial competitive harm from disclosure of outage information.⁶ The Commission also determined the disclosure of outage reporting information to the public could present an unacceptable risk of more effective terrorist activity and could therefore result in potential harm to the public and the national defense.

Based on the preceding, JSI respectfully requests on behalf of the Company that the Commission grant confidential treatment under Section 0.459 to Company's Five-Year Plan provided at FCC Form 481 Line 112 attachment, and to the Company's outage data provided at FCC Form 481 Line 200 attachment.

Please contact the undersigned with any questions regarding this request.

Sincerely,



John Kuykendall
JSI Vice President
301-459-7590
jkuykendall@jsitel.com

⁶ See *In the Matter of New Part 4 of the Commission's Rules Concerning Disruptions to Communications*, ET Docket No. 04-35, *Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking*, FCC 04-188, rel. Aug. 19, 2004, para. 45.

**FCC Form 481 - Carrier Annual Reporting
Data Collection Form**

REDACTED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

FCC Form 481
OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	442086
<015>	Study Area Name	HILL COUNTRY CO-OP
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name: Person USAC should contact with questions about this data	Delbert Wilson
<035>	Contact Telephone Number: Number of the person identified in data line <030>	8303675333 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address: Email of the person identified in data line <030>	dwilson@hctc.coop
	Form Type	54.313 and 54.422

**(100) Service Quality Improvement Reporting
Data Collection Form**

FCC Form 481

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	442086
<015>	Study Area Name	HILL COUNTRY CO-OP
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Delbert Wilson
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8303675333 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	dwilson@hctc.coop

<110>	Has your company received its ETC certification from the FCC?	(yes / no) <input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/>
<111>	If your answer to Line <110> is yes, do you have an existing §54.202(a) "5 year plan" filed with the FCC?	(yes / no) <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>

If your answer to Line <111> is yes, please file a progress report, on line <112> delineating the status of your company's existing § 54.202(a) "5 year plan" on file with the FCC, as it relates to your provision of voice telephony service.

<112> Attach Five-Year Service Quality Improvement Plan or, in subsequent years, your annual progress report filed pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.313(a)(1). If your company is a CETC which only receives frozen support, your progress report is only required to address voice telephony service.

442086tx112.pdf

Name of Attached Document

Please select the appropriate responses below (Yes, No, Not Applicable) to confirm that the attached document(s), on line 112, contains a progress report on its five-year service quality improvement plan pursuant to §54.202(a). The information shall be submitted at the wire center level or census block as appropriate.

- <113> Maps detailing progress towards meeting plan targets
- <114> Report how much universal service (USF) support was received
- <115> How much (USF) was used to improve service quality and how support was used to improve service quality
- <116> How much (USF) was used to improve service coverage and how support was used to improve service coverage
- <117> How much (USF) was used to improve service capacity and how support was used to improve service capacity
- <118> Provide an explanation of network improvement targets not met in the prior calendar year.

Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes

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(200) Service Outage Reporting (Voice)

Data Collection Form

FCC Form 481

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	442086
<015>	Study Area Name	HILL COUNTRY CO-OP
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Delbert Wilson
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8303675333 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	dwilson@hctc.coop

<210> For the prior calendar year, were there any reportable voice service outages? Yes

[illegible]

**(300) Unfulfilled Service Request
Data Collection Form**

FCC Form 481
OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	442086
<015>	Study Area Name	HILL COUNTRY CO-OP
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Delbert Wilson
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8303675333 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	dwilson@hctc.coop

<300> Unfulfilled service request (voice)

0

<310> Detail on attempts (voice)

Name of Attached Document

<320> Unfulfilled service request (broadband)

17

442086tx330.pdf

<330> Detail on attempts (broadband)

Name of Attached Document

(400) Number of Complaints per 1,000 customers Data Collection Form	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
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<010>	Study Area Code	442086
<015>	Study Area Name	HILL COUNTRY CO-OP
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Delbert Wilson
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8303675333 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	dwilson@hctc.coop
<400>	Select from the drop-down list to indicate how you would like to report voice complaints (zero or greater) for voice telephony service in the prior calendar year for each service area in which you are designated an ETC for any facilities you own, operate, lease, or otherwise utilize. Offered only fixed voice	
<410>	Complaints per 1000 customers for fixed voice	0 . 0
<420>	Complaints per 1000 customers for mobile voice	
<430>	Select from the drop-down list to indicate how you would like to report end-user customer complaints (zero or greater) for broadband service in the prior calendar year for each service area in which you are designated an ETC for any facilities you own, operate, lease, or otherwise utilize. Offered only fixed broadband	
<440>	Complaints per 1000 customers for fixed broadband	0 . 0
<450>	Complaints per 1000 customers for mobile broadband	

(500) Compliance With Service Quality Standards and Consumer Protection Rules		FCC Form 481
Data Collection Form		OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
		July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	442086
<015>	Study Area Name	HILL COUNTRY CO-OP
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Delbert Wilson
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8303675333 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	dwilson@hctc.coop
<500>	Certify compliance with applicable service quality standards and consumer protection rules	Yes
442086tx510.pdf		
<510>	Descriptive document for Service Quality Standards & Consumer Protection Rules Compliance	

(600) Functionality in Emergency Situations Data Collection Form		REDACTED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
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<010>	Study Area Code	442086
<015>	Study Area Name	HILL COUNTRY CO-OP
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Delbert Wilson
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8303675333 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	dwilson@htcc.coop
<600>	Certify compliance regarding ability to function in emergency situations	Yes
<610>	Descriptive document for Functionality in Emergency Situations	442086tx610.pdf

**(700) Price Offerings including Voice Rate Data
Data Collection Form**

FCC Form 481

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	442086
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<015>	Study Area Name	HILL COUNTRY CO-OP
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<020>	Program Year	2017
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<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Delbert Wilson
-------	---	----------------

<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8303675333 ext.
-------	---	-----------------

<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	dwilson@htc.coop
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<701> Residential Local Service Charge Effective Date

1/1/2016

<702> Single State-wide Residential Local Service Charge

[illegible]

FCC Form 481
OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	442086
<015>	Study Area Name	HILL COUNTRY CO-OP
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Delbert Wilson
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8303675333 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	dwilson@hctc.coop

[illegible]

FCC Form 481
OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
July 2013

[illegible]

FCC Form 481
OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
July 2013

<900>	Does the filing entity offer tribal land services? (Y/N)	No
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If your company serves Tribal lands, please select (Yes,No, NA) for each these boxes to confirm the status described on the attached document(s), on line 920, demonstrates coordination with the Tribal government pursuant to § 54.313(a)(9) includes:

[illegible]

**(1000) Voice and Broadband Service Rate Comparability
Data Collection Form**

FCC Form 481

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	442086
<015>	Study Area Name	HILL COUNTRY CO-OP
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Delbert Wilson
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8303675333 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	dwilson@hctc.coop

<1000> Voice services rate comparability certification Yes

<1010> Attach detailed description for voice services rate comparability compliance

Name of Attached Document

<1020> Broadband comparability certification Yes - Pricing is no more than the most recent applicable benchmark announced by the Wireline Competition Bureau

<1030> Attach detailed description for broadband comparability compliance

Name of Attached Document

**(1100) No Terrestrial Backhaul Reporting
Data Collection Form**

FCC Form 481
OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	442086
<015>	Study Area Name	HILL COUNTRY CO-OP
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Delbert Wilson
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8303675333 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	dwilson@hctc.coop

<1100> Certify whether terrestrial backhaul options exist (Y/N)

Yes

<1130> Please select the appropriate response (Yes, No, Not Applicable) to confirm the reporting carrier offers broadband service of at least 1 Mbps downstream and 256 kbps upstream within the supported area pursuant to § 54.313(g).

(1200) Terms and Condition for Lifeline Customers
Lifeline
Data Collection Form

FCC Form 481
 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
 July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	442086
<015>	Study Area Name	HILL COUNTRY CO-OP
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Delbert Wilson
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8303675333 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	dwilson@htc.coop

<1210> Terms & Conditions of Voice Telephony Lifeline Plans

442086tx1210.pdf

Name of Attached Document

<1220> Link to Public Website

HTTP

"Please check these boxes below to confirm that the attached document(s), on line 1210, or the website listed, on line 1220, contains the required information pursuant to § 54.422(a)(2) annual reporting for ETCs receiving low-income support, carriers must annually report:

- <1221> Information describing the terms and conditions of any voice telephony service plans offered to Lifeline subscribers, ☒
- <1222> Details on the number of minutes provided as part of the plan, ☒
- <1223> Additional charges for toll calls, and rates for each such plan. ☒

(2000) Price Cap Carrier Additional Documentation

FCC Form 481

Data Collection Form

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

Including Rate-of-Return Carriers affiliated with Price Cap Local Exchange Carriers

July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	442086
<015>	Study Area Name	HILL COUNTRY CO-OP
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Delbert Wilson
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8303675333 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	dwilson@hctc.coop

Select the appropriate responses below (Yes, No, Not Applicable) to note compliance as a recipient of Incremental High Cost support, High Cost support to offset access charge reductions, and Connect America Phase II support as set forth in 47 CFR § 54.313(b),(c),(d),(e). The information reported on this form and in the documents attached below is accurate.

Incremental Connect America Phase I reporting

<2010>	2nd Year Certification 47 CFR § 54.313(b)(1)(i) - Note that for the July 1 2016 certification, this applies to Round 2 recipients of Incremental Support		
<2011>	3rd Year Certification 47 CFR § 54.313(b)(1)(ii) - Note that for the July 1 2016 certification, this applies to Round 1 recipients of Incremental Support		
<2022>	Recipient certifies, representing year two after filing a notice of acceptance of funding pursuant to 54.312(c), that the locations in question are not receiving support under the Broadband Initiatives Program or the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program for projects that will provide broadband with speeds of at least 4 Mbps/1Mbps - 54.313(b)(2)(i). Round 2 recipients only.		
<2023>	The attachment on line 2024 includes a statement of the total amount of capital funding expended in the previous year in meeting Connect America Phase I deployment obligations, accompanied by a list of census blocks indicating where funding was spent. This covers year two - 54.313(b)(2)(ii). Round 2 recipients only.		
<2024A>	Round 2 Recipient of Incremental Support?		
<2024B>	Attach list of census blocks indicating where funding was spent in year two - 54.313(b)(2)(ii). Round 2 recipients only.	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information	
<2025A>	Round 1 or Round 2 Recipient of Incremental Support?		
<2025B>	Attach geocoded Information for Phase I milestone reports (Round 1 for year three and Round 2 for year two) - Connect America Fund , WC Docket 10-90, Report and Order, FCC 13-	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information	
<2015>	2016 and future Frozen Support Certification 47 CFR § 54.313(c)(4)		

(2000) Price Cap Carrier Additional Documentation (Continued)

Data Collection Form

Including Rate-of-Return Carriers affiliated with Price Cap Local Exchange Carriers

FCC Form 481

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

July 2013

Price Cap Carrier Connect America ICC Support {47 CFR § 54.313(d)}

<2016> Certification support used to build broadband

Connect America Phase II Reporting {47 CFR § 54.313(e)}

<2017A> Connect America Fund Phase II recipient?

<2017B> Attach information for Phase II - 54.313(e)(1) - list of geocoded locations already meeting the 54.309 public interest obligations at the end of calendar year 2015 and total amount of Phase II support, if any, the price

Name of Attached Document Listing
Required Information

cap carrier used for capital expenditures in 2015.

<2018> Attach the number, names, and addresses of community anchor institutions to which the carrier newly began providing access to broadband service in the preceding calendar year - 54.313(e)(2)(ii)

Name of Attached Document Listing
Required Information

<2019> Recipient certifies that it bid on category one telecommunications and Internet access services in response to all FCC Form 470 postings seeking broadband service that meets the connectivity targets for the schools and libraries universal service support program for eligible schools and libraries located within any area in a census block where the carrier is receiving Phase II model-based support, and that such bids were at rates reasonably comparable to rates charged to eligible schools and libraries in urban areas for comparable offerings - 54.313(e)(2)(v)

<2020> Recipient certifies that it offered broadband meeting the requisite public interest obligations specified in §54.309 to 40% of its supported locations in the state on December 31, 2017 - 54.313(e)(3)

<2021> Recipient certifies that it offered broadband meeting the requisite public interest obligations specified in §54.309 to 60% of its supported locations in the state on December 31, 2018 - 54.313(e)(4)

<2026> Recipient certifies that it offered broadband meeting the requisite public interest obligations specified in §54.309 to 80% of its supported locations in the state on December 31, 2019 - 54.313(e)(5)

<2027> Recipient certifies that it offered broadband meeting the requisite public interest obligations specified in §54.309 to 100% of its supported locations in the state on December 31, 2020 - 54.313(e)(6)

<010>	Study Area Code	442086
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<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	dwilson@htc.coop

Complete the items below to note compliance with five year service quality plan (pursuant to 47 CFR § 54.202(a)) and, for privately held carriers, ensuring compliance with the financial reporting requirements set forth in 47 CFR § 54.313(f)(2). I further certify that the information reported on this form and in the documents attached below is accurate.

(3009)	Progress Report on 5 Year Plan Carrier certifies to 54.313(f)(1)(iii)	
(3010A)	Milestone Certification {47 CFR § 54.313(f)(1)(i)}	Yes - Attach Certification
(3010B)	Please Provide Attachment	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information
(3012A)	Community Anchor Institutions {47 CFR § 54.313(f)(1)(ii)}	No - No New Community Anchors
(3012B)	Please Provide Attachment	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information
(3013)	Is your company a Privately Held ROR Carrier {47 CFR § 54.313(f)(2)}	(Yes/No) <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
(3014)	If yes, does your company file the RUS annual report	(Yes/No) <input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/>
(3015)	Please check these boxes to confirm that the attached PDF, on line 3017, contains the required information pursuant to § 54.313(f)(2) compliance requires: Electronic copy of their annual RUS reports (Operating Report for Telecommunications Borrowers)	<input type="checkbox"/>
(3016)	Document(s) with Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows	<input type="checkbox"/>
(3017)	If the response is yes on line 3014, attach your company's RUS annual report and all required documentation	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information
(3018)	If the response is no on line 3014, is your company audited?	(Yes/No) <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
(3019)	If the response is yes on line 3018, please check the boxes below to confirm your submission on line 3026 pursuant to § 54.313(f)(2), contains: Either a copy of their audited financial statement; or (2) a financial report in a format comparable to RUS Operating Report for Telecommunications Borrowers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(3020)	Document(s) for Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(3021)	Management letter and/or audit opinion issued by the independent certified public accountant that performed the company's financial audit. If the response is no on line 3018, please check the boxes below to confirm your submission on line 3026 pursuant to § 54.313(f)(2), contains:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(3022)	Copy of their financial statement which has been subject to review by an independent certified public accountant; or 2) a financial report in a format comparable to RUS Operating Report for Telecommunications Borrowers	<input type="checkbox"/>
(3023)	Underlying information subjected to a review by an independent certified public accountant	<input type="checkbox"/>
(3024)	Underlying information subjected to an officer certification.	<input type="checkbox"/>
(3025)	Document(s) for Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows	<input type="checkbox"/>
(3026)	Attach the worksheet listing required information	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information

(3005) Rate Of Return Carrier Additional Documentation (Continued)

FCC Form 481

Data Collection Form

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	442086
<015>	Study Area Name	HILL COUNTRY CO-OP
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Delbert Wilson
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8303675333 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	dwilson@hctc.coop

Financial Data Summary

(3027) Revenue

(3028) Operating Expenses

(3029) Net Income

(3030) Telephone Plant In Service(TPIS)

(3031) Total Assets

(3032) Total Debt

(3033) Total Equity

(3034) Dividends

(4005) Rural Broadband Experiment Additional Documentation
Data Collection Form

FCC Form 481
OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	442086
<015>	Study Area Name	HILL COUNTRY CO-OP
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Delbert Wilson
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8303675333 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	dwilson@htc.coop

4005 Rural Broadband Experiment

Authorized Rural Broadband Experiment (RBE) recipients must address the certification for public interest obligations, provide a list of newly served community anchor institutions, and provide a list of locations where broadband has been deployed.

Public Interest Obligations – FCC 14-98 (paragraphs 26-29, 78)

Please address Line 4001 regarding compliance with the Commission’s public interest obligations. All RBE participants must provide a response to Line 4001.

4001. Recipient certifies that it is offering broadband to the identified locations meeting the requisite public interest obligations consistent with the category for which they were selected, including broadband speed, latency, usage capacity, and rates that are reasonably comparable to rates for comparable offerings in urban areas?

Community Anchor Institutions – FCC 14-98 (paragraph 79)

4003a. RBE participants must provide the number, names, and addresses of community anchor institutions to which they newly deployed broadband service in the preceding calendar year. On this line, please respond (yes – attach new community anchors, no – no new anchors) to indicate whether this list will be provided.

If yes to 4003A, please provide a response for 4003B.

4003b. Provide the number, names and addresses of community anchor institutions to which the recipient newly began providing access to broadband service in the preceding calendar year.

Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information

Broadband Deployment Locations – FCC 14-98 (paragraph 80)

4004a. Attach a list of geocoded locations to which broadband has been deployed as of the June 1st immediately preceding the July 1st filing deadline for the FCC Form 481.

Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information

4004b. Attach evidence demonstrating that the recipient is meeting the relevant public service obligations for the identified locations. Materials must at least detail the pricing, offered broadband speed and data usage allowances available in the relevant geographic area.

Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information

Certification - Reporting Carrier Data Collection Form	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
---	--

<010>	Study Area Code	442086
<015>	Study Area Name	HILL COUNTRY CO-OP
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Delbert Wilson
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8303675333 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	dwilson@htc.coop

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE REPORTING CARRIER, IF THE REPORTING CARRIER IS FILING ANNUAL REPORTING ON ITS OWN BEHALF:

Certification of Officer as to the Accuracy of the Data Reported for the Annual Reporting for CAF or LI Recipients	
I certify that I am an officer of the reporting carrier; my responsibilities include ensuring the accuracy of the annual reporting requirements for universal service support recipients; and, to the best of my knowledge, the information reported on this form and in any attachments is accurate.	
Name of Reporting Carrier:	
Signature of Authorized Officer:	Date
Printed name of Authorized Officer:	
Title or position of Authorized Officer:	
Telephone number of Authorized Officer:	
Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier:	Filing Due Date for this form:
Persons willfully making false statements on this form can be punished by fine or forfeiture under the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. §§ 502, 503(b), or fine or imprisonment under Title 18 of the United States Code, 18 U.S.C. § 1001.	

Certification - Agent / Carrier Data Collection Form	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
---	--

<010> Study Area Code	442086
<015> Study Area Name	HILL COUNTRY CO-OP
<020> Program Year	2017
<030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Delbert Wilson
<035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8303675333 ext.
<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	dwilson@hctc.coop

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE REPORTING CARRIER, IF AN AGENT IS FILING ANNUAL REPORTS ON THE CARRIER'S BEHALF:

Certification of Officer to Authorize an Agent to File Annual Reports for CAF or LI Recipients on Behalf of Reporting Carrier	
I certify that (Name of Agent) <u>JSI</u> is authorized to submit the information reported on behalf of the reporting carrier. I also certify that I am an officer of the reporting carrier; my responsibilities include ensuring the accuracy of the annual data reporting requirements provided to the authorized agent; and, to the best of my knowledge, the reports and data provided to the authorized agent is accurate.	
Name of Authorized Agent:	<u>JSI</u>
Name of Reporting Carrier:	<u>HILL COUNTRY CO-OP</u>
Signature of Authorized Officer:	<u>CERTIFIED ONLINE</u> Date: <u>06/24/2016</u>
Printed name of Authorized Officer:	<u>Willard Bass</u>
Title or position of Authorized Officer:	<u>Board President</u>
Telephone number of Authorized Officer:	<u>8303675333 ext.</u>
Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier:	<u>442086</u> Filing Due Date for this form: <u>07/01/2016</u>
Persons willfully making false statements on this form can be punished by fine or forfeiture under the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. §§ 502, 503(b), or fine or imprisonment under Title 18 of the United States Code, 18 U.S.C. § 1001.	

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE AUTHORIZED AGENT:

Certification of Agent Authorized to File Annual Reports for CAF or LI Recipients on Behalf of Reporting Carrier	
I, as agent for the reporting carrier, certify that I am authorized to submit the annual reports for universal service support recipients on behalf of the reporting carrier; I have provided the data reported herein based on data provided by the reporting carrier; and, to the best of my knowledge, the information reported herein is accurate.	
Name of Reporting Carrier:	<u>HILL COUNTRY CO-OP</u>
Name of Authorized Agent Firm:	<u>JSI</u>
Signature of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent:	<u>CERTIFIED ONLINE</u> Date: <u>06/24/2016</u>
Name of Authorized Agent Employee:	<u>Diane Longenecker</u>
Title or position of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent	<u>Director -Regulatory Affairs</u>
Telephone number of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent:	<u>5123380473 ext.535</u>
Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier:	<u>442086</u> Filing Due Date for this form: <u>07/01/2016</u>
Persons willfully making false statements on this form can be punished by fine or forfeiture under the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. §§ 502, 503(b), or fine or imprisonment under Title 18 of the United States Code, 18 U.S.C. § 1001.	

Attachments

REDACTED – FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

ATTACHMENT - LINE 112

**Five-Year Network Improvement Plan and
Progress Report**

ATTACHMENT REDACTED IN ENTIRETY

Data Collection Form

FCC Form 481

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	442086
<015>	Study Area Name	HILL COUNTRY CO-OP
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Delbert Wilson
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8303675333 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	dwilson@hctc.coop

<210> For the prior calendar year, were there any reportable voice service outages?

Yes

<220>

<a> <b1> <b2> <b3> <b4> <c1> <c2> <d> <e> <f> <g> <h>

[illegible]

UNFULFILLED BROADBAND REQUESTS -LINE 330

Customer #	Location	Contact Type	Start Date	Description	Detail on Attempt to Fill
Customer 1	589	UNFULFILLED BROADBAND	5/7/15	Customer called requested faster broadband. Currently on 3M but can only achieve 2M.	Loop length is over 20,000 feet. Informed customer of network/equipment limitations. Request unreasonable at this time.
Customer 2	238	UNFULFILLED BROADBAND	4/20/15	Customer is currently on 1M and is requesting 6M or higher.	Loop length is 17,127 feet. Informed customer of network/equipment limitations. Request unreasonable at this time.
Customer 3	640	UNFULFILLED BROADBAND	4/14/15	Customer requesting broadband at a new location. Not available.	Loop length is 19,678. No plans at to upgrade area. Request unreasonable at this time.
Customer 4	232	UNFULFILLED BROADBAND	5/8/15	Customer requested higher speeds than his current 3M. He'd be happy with 6M.	Loop length is 21,155 feet. Informed customer of network/equipment limitations. Request unreasonable at this time.
Customer 5	589	UNFULFILLED BROADBAND	5/8/15	Customer requested higher speeds than his current 3M.	Loop length is 14,718 feet. Informed customer of network/equipment limitations. Request unreasonable at this time.
Customer 6	238	UNFULFILLED BROADBAND	5/27/15	Customer would like higher than current 1M broadband service.	Loop length is 18,385 feet. Informed customer of network/equipment limitations. Request unreasonable at this time.

Customer #	Location	Contact Type	Start Date	Description	Detail on Attempt to Fill
Customer 7	589	UNFULFILLED BROADBAND	8/20/15	New customer subscribed to DSL 3M, but would like higher speeds.	Loop length is 14,397 feet. Informed customer of network/equipment limitations. Request unreasonable at this time.
Customer 8	232	UNFULFILLED BROADBAND	8/31/15	Customer would like anything higher than 1M.	Loop length is 22,419 feet. Informed customer of network/equipment limitations. Request unreasonable at this time.
Customer 9	866	UNFULFILLED BROADBAND	8/31/15	Customer has telephone service and contacted us for broadband services. Cannot provide at this time.	Evaluated customer location, foorageis 30,617. Cost of service-request unreasonable at this time
Customer 10	634	UNFULFILLED BROADBAND	9/2/15	Customer would like higher than current 1M broadband service.	Loop length is 19,071 feet. Informed customer of network/equipment limitations. Request unreasonable at this time.
Customer 11	232	UNFULFILLED BROADBAND	9/29/15	Customer currently on select bundle (3M) would like higher speed.	Loop length is 14,301 feet. Informed customer of network/equipment limitations. Request unreasonable at this time.
Customer 12	238	UNFULFILLED BROADBAND	10/5/15	Customer would like anything higher than 3M.	Loop length is 16,573 feet. Informed customer of network/equipment limitations. Request unreasonable at this time.

Customer #	Location	Contact Type	Start Date	Description	Detail on Attempt to Fill
Customer 13	640	UNFULFILLED BROADBAND	10/21/15	Customer requesting higher than current 1M broadband service.	Loop length is 25,650 feet. Informed customer of network/equipment limitations. Request unreasonable at this time.
Customer 14	640	UNFULFILLED BROADBAND	10/28/15	Customer is on 3M and would like higher speeds.	Loop length is 17,182 feet. Informed customer of network/equipment limitations. Request unreasonable at this time.
Customer 15	238	UNFULFILLED BROADBAND	11/2/15	Customer is on 3M and would like higher speeds.	Loop length is 16,014 feet. Informed customer of network/equipment limitations. Request unreasonable at this time.
Customer 16	995	UNFULFILLED BROADBAND	11/3/15	Customer is on 3M and would like higher speeds.	Loop length is 20,253 feet. Informed customer of network/equipment limitations. Request unreasonable at this time.
Customer 17	238	UNFULFILLED BROADBAND	11/30/15	Customer, currently on 1M, is requesting faster speeds.	Loop length is 20,024 feet. Informed customer of network/equipment limitations. Request unreasonable at this time.

Hill Country Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

Study Area Code: 442086

Response to Line 510 - Service Quality Standards and Consumer Protection Rules

Compliance – Voice and Broadband

In establishing this certification in its *2005 ETC Order*,¹ the FCC found that an ETC must make “a specific commitment to objective measures to protect consumers.”² The FCC found that for wireless ETCs, compliance with CTIA’s Consumer Code for Wireless Service would satisfy this requirement and that the sufficiency of other commitments would be considered on a case-by-case basis.³ In this context, the FCC stated, “to the extent a wireline or wireless ETC applicant is subject to consumer protection obligations under state law, compliance with such laws may meet our requirement.”⁴

Hill Country Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (“Cooperative”) hereby certifies that its voice service complies with applicable service quality standards and consumer protection rules under the Texas Administrative Code, Title 16, Part II, as established by the Public Utility Commission of Texas. These obligations include, but are not limited to, the following: (1) filing a Local Exchange Tariff which discloses rates, terms and conditions of service to customers pursuant to Subchapter J requirements in Sections 26.201-26.230; (2) adherence to state consumer protection

¹ *Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service*, CC Docket No. 96-45, Report and Order, FCC 05-46 (rel. Mar. 17, 2005) (“*2005 ETC Order*”).

² *Id.* at para. 28.

³ *Id.* The FCC noted that under the CTIA Consumer Code, wireless carriers agree to: “(1) disclose rates and terms of service to customers; (2) make available maps showing where service is generally available; (3) provide contract terms to customers and confirm changes in service; (4) allow a trial period for new service; (5) provide specific disclosures in advertising; (6) separately identify carrier charges from taxes on billing statements; (7) provide customers the right to terminate service for changes to contract terms; (8) provide ready access to customer service; (9) promptly respond to consumer inquiries and complaints received from government agencies; and (10) abide by policies for protection of consumer privacy.” *Id.* at n. 71.

⁴ *Id.* at n. 72.

requirements governing telephone providers as identified in Subchapter B, in Sections 26.21-26.37; and (3) service quality standards requirements as identified in Subchapter C, Sections 26.51-26.57. In addition, the Cooperative complies with numerous federal consumer protection standards including, but not limited to: (1) Truth-in-Billing Rules outlined in 47 CFR § 64.2401; and (2) compliance with Federal CPNI rules, Red Flag Rules and other applicable federal and state requirements governing the protection of customers' privacy.

For its broadband service, Cooperative hereby certifies that while there are no applicable state broadband service quality standards and consumer protection rules yet established under the Texas Administrative Code by the Public Utility Commission of Texas, the Cooperative discloses rates, terms and conditions on its public web site and the Cooperative complies with applicable federal and state customer protection standards generally applicable to all businesses operating in Texas. In addition, the Cooperative adheres to consumer protection obligations for broadband services under federal law. These obligations include, but are not limited to, the following: public disclosure of accurate information regarding network management practices, performance, and commercial terms of broadband internet access services; as a means of providing sufficient information for consumers to make informed choices regarding use of such services, and for content, application, service and device providers to develop, market, and maintain internet offerings as specified in F.C.C. 47 C.F.R. Part 8 §8.3. The Company furthermore will comply with all requirements set forth in the *2015 Open Internet Order*, as it applies to the Company.

Hill Country Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

Study Area Code: 442086

**Response to Line 610 - Ability to Function in Emergency Situations
for Voice and Broadband**

Hill Country Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (“Cooperative”) hereby certifies that it is able to function in emergency situations as set forth in the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 47, Part 54, Subpart C, §54.202(a)(2)¹ and the Texas Administrative Code. The Cooperative’s network is designed to remain functional in emergency situations without an external power source, is able to reroute traffic around damaged facilities, and is capable of managing traffic spikes resulting from emergency situations as required by Section 54.202(a)(2). The Cooperative can change call routing translations as needed to reroute traffic around damaged facilities. Changing call routing translations also allows the Cooperative to manage traffic spikes throughout its network, as emergency situations require.

Specifically, the Cooperative is able to function under emergency operations in accordance with Public Utility Commission of Texas Substantive Rules §26.51 *Reliability of Operations of Telecommunications Providers* and §26.52 *Emergency Operations* which include obligations for continuity of service and emergency operations planning and service provision capability for dominant carriers. Any central office not equipped with permanently installed standby generators contains as a minimum four hours of battery reserve without voltage falling below the level required for proper operation of all equipment. In addition, all central offices without installed

¹ Section 54.202(a)(2) requires ETCs that are designated by the Commission to “demonstrate its ability to remain functional in emergency situations, including a demonstration that it has a reasonable amount of back-up power to ensure functionality without an external power source, is able to reroute traffic around damaged facilities, and is capable of managing traffic spikes resulting from emergency situations.”

emergency power facilities have a mobile power unit available which can be delivered and connected on short notice.

The Cooperative's standby generators and battery back-up equipment support both voice and broadband network equipment in the event of an emergency situation.

REDACTED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

**(700) Price Offerings including Voice Rate Data
Data Collection Form**

FCC Form 481

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	442086
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<015>	Study Area Name	HILL COUNTRY CO-OP
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<020> Program Year	2017
--------------------	------

<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Delbert Wilson
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<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8303675333 ext.
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<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	dwilson@hctc.coop
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1/1/2016

<703>

[illegible]

REDACTED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

(710) Broadband Price Offerings
Data Collection Form

FCC Form 481

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	442086
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<015>	Study Area Name	HILL COUNTRY CO-OP
-------	-----------------	--------------------

<020>	Program Year	2017
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<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Delbert Wilson
-------	---	----------------

<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8303675333 ext.
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<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	dwilson@hctc.coop
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[illegible]

REDACTED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

(800) Operating Companies Data Collection Form	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
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<010>	Study Area Code	442086
<015>	Study Area Name	HILL COUNTRY CO-OP
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Delbert Wilson
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8303675333 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	dwilson@hctc.coop
<810>	Reporting Carrier	Hill Country Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
<811>	Holding Company	Not Applicable
<812>	Operating Company	Hill Country Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

[illegible]

Hill Country Telephone Cooperative, Inc.**Study Area Code: 442086****Rates, Terms and Conditions for Lifeline Service****(Response to Form 481, Line 1210)**

Local exchange service rates and charges as specified below are for basic local exchange service (R-1) including mandatory Extended Area Service and mandatory Expanded Local Calling Service and a basic bundle that includes basic local service, call waiting, caller ID, and call forwarding busy and no answer. Both rates include charges for facilities. The rates for other ancillary services not specifically shown below are presented in Hill Country Telephone Cooperative's tariff(s) on file with the Public Utility Commission of Texas. Unless otherwise specified, the rates and charges quoted below are for a period of one month, payable in advance and provide unlimited flat rate calling within the local exchange calling scope.

Residential Local Exchange Access Line Rates:^{1 2}

Exchange Name	R-1 Rate	Bundle w/Basic Local Svc.
Center Point	\$19.50	\$ 21.80
Comfort	\$18.00	\$ 18.30
Doss	\$18.00	\$ 18.30
Fredonia	\$18.00	\$ 18.30
Frio Canyon	\$18.00	\$ 20.04
Garven Store	\$18.00	\$ 18.30
Hunt	\$18.00	\$ 18.30
Ingram	\$18.00	\$ 18.30
Katemcy	\$18.00	\$ 18.30
Medina	\$18.00	\$ 18.30
Mountain Home	\$18.00	\$ 18.30
Pontotoc	\$18.00	\$ 18.30
Sisterdale	\$18.00	\$ 18.30
Streeter	\$18.00	\$ 18.30
Tarpley	\$18.00	\$ 18.30

¹ Above listed fees do not include mandatory taxes, fees and surcharges, including, but not limited to Texas Universal Service Fund charges, 9-1-1 fees, and municipal franchise fees.

² Qualified Lifeline customers are eligible for Lifeline credits or discounts as outlined in the attached Lifeline tariff.

HILL COUNTRY TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE, INC.
General Exchange Tariff

SECTION 19
1st Revised Sheet 7
Replacing Original Sheet 7

LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

IV. LIFELINE PROGRAM

A. General

1. Lifeline Service is a retail local service offering sponsored by the FCC and available to qualifying low-income consumers.
2. Consumers qualifying for Lifeline Service are offered the services or functionalities enumerated in 47 Code of Federal Regulations §54.101(a) (relating to Supported Services for Rural, Insular and High Cost Areas).
3. The Cooperative shall offer toll denial at no charge to all qualifying low-income consumers at the time such consumers subscribe to Lifeline Service. If the consumer elects to receive toll denial, that service shall become part of the consumer's Lifeline Service.
4. A customer otherwise eligible to receive the Lifeline Service shall not be prohibited from obtaining and using telecommunication equipment and services designed to aid such customer in utilizing qualifying telecommunication services.
5. Lifeline Service rate reductions only apply to basic service and do not apply to long distance service, 976 and other information provider services, or any other optional services or functionalities which may or may not be tariffed. Customers may subscribe to non-basic and bundled services, where available and at their discretion, although the Lifeline Service reduction will only apply to the basic service portion of a bundled service.
6. The Lifeline Service rate reductions do not apply to service connection charges. Customers eligible for the Tribal Lands Link Up program may receive a reduction in applicable service connection charges as set forth in Section 6 of this tariff.

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HILL COUNTRY TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE, INC.
General Exchange Tariff

SECTION 19
1st Revised Sheet 8
Replacing Original Sheet 8

LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

IV. LIFELINE PROGRAM (Continued)

A. General (Continued)

7. Lifeline Service will not be available on a retroactive basis except as directed by LIDA or the Commission.
8. The Cooperative will waive monthly number portability charges, subject to the tariff, for Lifeline customers.

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B. Eligibility Requirements

1. The discounted service will be provided for one (1) residential telephone line per household, at the subscriber's principal place of residence.
2. The applicant must certify that their annual household income is at or below 150% of the federal poverty guidelines, be an eligible resident of Tribal lands, or participate in, or have a person or child who resides in the customer household who participates in a program identified in Chapter 47 of the Code of Federal Regulations § 54.409 and in P.U.C. Substantive Rule 26.412 regarding consumer qualification for Lifeline.

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LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

IV. LIFELINE PROGRAM (Continued)

B. Eligibility Requirements (Continued)

3. Procedures for Establishing Lifeline Discounts

- a. Consumers within the Cooperative's service area identified as eligible for Lifeline Service by the LIDA through the automatic enrollment process under Commission Substantive Rule 26.412, shall be provided Lifeline Service discounts, unless the Cooperative receives a customer request to be excluded from such discounts.
- b. Consumers who are eligible for Lifeline Service but who do not have telephone service at the time the LIDA provides its eligibility list to the Cooperative are responsible for contacting the Cooperative and initiating a request for service. Customers eligible for Lifeline Service may also be eligible for reduced connection charges under the Link Up program, as found in Section 6 of this tariff.
- c. The LIDA shall provide the Cooperative with a monthly list of consumers eligible for Lifeline Service.
- d. Consumers who do not participate in one of the designated programs but who meet annual income qualifications by having an annual household income at or below 150% of the federal poverty guidelines, may establish eligibility for Lifeline Service by contacting the LIDA.

4. Provision of Service

- a. The Cooperative shall provide Lifeline Service to all eligible consumers identified by the LIDA within its service area if the consumer is a customer of the Cooperative. Within 30 days after receipt of the list or receipt of customer affidavit, the Cooperative shall begin reduced billing for those eligible low-income consumers subscribing to qualifying services.

—FOR PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION USE ONLY—

Effective: Upon Approval
Issued By: Delbert Wilson
Title: General Manager

LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

IV. LIFELINE PROGRAM (Continued)

B. Eligibility Requirements (Continued)

4. Provision of Service (Continued)

- b. The Cooperative will discontinue Lifeline Service discounts upon notice by the LIDA that a customer is no longer eligible.
- c. The Cooperative has provided a confidentiality agreement to the LIDA specifying the use of confidential client information is solely for providing Lifeline Service.

C. Deposits

The deposit requirements will be waived for Lifeline Service applicants who voluntarily elect to subscribe to Toll Denial Service.

D. Lifeline Service Discounts

- 1. Eligible consumers who subscribe to Lifeline Service will receive the following discounts; however, the combined discounts shall not result in a rate of less than zero charged for the customer's basic service.
 - a. Federal Lifeline support amount. The Cooperative shall grant qualifying low-income consumers support of \$9.25 per month or an amount directed by the Federal Communications Commission in Chapter 47 of the Code of Federal Regulations regarding Lifeline support.
 - b. State reduction. The Cooperative shall grant qualifying low-income consumers the state-approved reduction of up to \$3.50 in the monthly amount of intrastate charges due.
 - c. Area discount. At such date the Cooperative increases its residential basic network service rate, the Cooperative shall give qualifying Lifeline customers an area discount composed of up to 25% of the rate increase amount, consistent with P.U.C. Subst. R. 26.412(f)(1)(E)(i-ii). The area discount is \$0.50.

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Effective: Upon Approval
Issued By: Delbert Wilson
Title: General Manager

FOR PUBLIC

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF TEXAS
APPROVED / EFFECTIVE

Dec. 1, 2014 Tariff No. 43754

TARIFF CLERK

LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

IV. LIFELINE PROGRAM (Continued)

E. Service Charges

1. Service charges do not apply when eligible customers with existing residential service convert to Lifeline Service.
2. Service charges apply when:
 - a. At the time Lifeline Service billing is initiated, where existing eligible residential local exchange access service customers request additional features, such as special or custom calling features.
 - b. A customer receiving Lifeline Service voluntarily elects to convert to telephone service arrangements, which preclude Lifeline Service eligibility.
 - c. New residential applicants (those without existing local exchange access service) eligible for the Lifeline Program will be subject to applicable service charges.
3. Any subsequent moves or changes after the initial connection to Lifeline Service will be subject to applicable service charges.

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F. Payments and Disconnection of Service

1. The Cooperative may not disconnect Lifeline Service for nonpayment of toll charges.
2. A Lifeline customer is required to adhere to the same bill payment policies applicable to all of the Cooperative's customers.

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—FOR PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION USE ONLY—

Effective: Upon Approval
Issued By: Delbert Wilson
Title: General Manager

Hill Country Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

Study Area Code: 442086

Response to Line 3010 – Milestone Certification (47 CFR §54.313(f)(1)(i))

Hill Country Telephone Cooperative, Inc. hereby certifies that throughout 2015, it took reasonable steps to provide upon reasonable request broadband service at actual speeds of at least 10 Mbps downstream/1 Mbps upstream, with latency suitable for real-time applications, including Voice over Internet Protocol, and usage capacity that is reasonably comparable to comparable offerings in urban areas and that requests for such service are met within a reasonable amount of time. If a request for broadband service at actual speeds of at least 10 Mbps downstream/1 Mbps upstream is unreasonable, and offering broadband service at actual speeds of at least 4 Mbps downstream/1 Mbps upstream is reasonable, Hill Country Telephone Cooperative, Inc. offers broadband service at actual speeds of at least 4 Mbps downstream/1 Mbps upstream.

REDACTED – FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

ATTACHMENT - LINE 3026

ATTACHMENT REDACTED IN ENTIRETY